



AMENDATORY RESPONSE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. 09/865,756

Group Art Unit No. 2621

Filing Date: May 25, 2001

Examiner: Daniel G. Mariam

Inventor: Gerald R. Black

Date: December 20 2004

Title: Identity Authentication Device

Reply to Office Action and Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

To highlight the distinctions of the above referenced invention over the prior art as interpreted by the Examiner in the Office Action of June 29, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel Claims 1 through 18, without prejudice, and add new Claims 19 through 23, as set forth below.

19. An identity authentication device having the general shape of a stylus, the stylus having a stylus tip, the identity authentication device comprising:

a sensor disposed within the grip of the stylus, the sensor enabling the capture of either but not both of a fingerprint or a thumbprint as the stylus is generating text images upon a surface, either the fingerprint or thumbprint enabling identity authentication of the person doing the writing, the text images being a signature or non-signature images; and

a processor having memory, processor memory being disposed with the stylus, the stylus including means for determining the position of the tip of the stylus upon the surface, the text images being captured in processor memory as the writing is generated by the stylus, the processor memory retaining the text images generated by the stylus upon the surface;